[*Translation*]

Forest Cover In Maharashtra

2209. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total forest covered area in Maharashtra particularly in Parbhani and Nanded districts;

(b) whether the forest area has decreased in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to increase the forest area in the State:

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONEMNT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the latest assessment of the Forest Cover made by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, based on the visual interpretation of satellite imageries pertaining to the period 1987–89, the actual forest cover in Maharshtra is 44,058 sq. kms. Parbhani and Nanded districts, have an area of 51 sq. kms. and 913 sq. kms. under forest cover, respectively.

(b) There is no decrease in the extent of actual forest cover in Maharashtra during the period of assessment 1987–89, as compared to the previous assessment pertaining to 1985–87.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The following steps are being taken to increase the area under forests in the State:

(a) A massive programme of afforestation including FARM FORESTRY & SOCIAL FORESTRY is being implemented under the 20 Point Programme.

(b) Restriction in diversion of forest land for non-forestry use under the Forest (Conservation) Act–1980.

(c) Intensive patrolling of forest areas is organised by the supervisory and field staff. 8 Vigilance Cells have been established and each forest Division is provided with a Mobile Squad.

Bridge at Rajkumar Mills

2211. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state·

(a) whether the estimates regarding the construction of Rajkumar Mills (Indore) overbridge have been accorded approval by the Government; and

(b) the time by which its construction work is likely to commerce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Due to change in layout of approaches to the said road overbridge, by the M.P. State Govt. the estimated cost of the bridge has gone up from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 7.36 crores. Revised estimate has been framed. ·

Construction will be taken up by the Railways as soon as the estimate is sanctioned and the State Govt. commences the work on bridge approaches.